

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-17, 20-21, 23-27 and 29-47 are pending in this application.

Premature Finality of the Office Action:

The finality of the March 23, 2005 Office Action is clearly premature. For example, page 13 of the Office Action states "Applicant's arguments...under Arora in view of Hanson have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Guzak et al." However, this new ground(s) of rejection in view of Guzak was clearly not necessitated by an amendment to the claims. For example, independent claim 1 was **not** amended in Applicant's October 28, 2004 Response at all.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the finality of the March 23, 2005 Office Action be withdrawn and that entry of the claim amendments presented herein is in order.

Request for Return of Fully Initialed Form PTO-1449:

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the present application on September 14, 2001. A partially initialed Form PTO-1449 was returned to Applicant. However, document WO 98/10356 cited on the Form PTO-1449 was not initialed as an indication that it has been fully

RUSS et al.
Application No. 09/889,350
August 23, 2005

considered. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant has attached hereto a fresh copy of the partially initialed Form PTO-1449.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Arora et al (U.S. '145, hereinafter "Arora") in view of Guzak et al (U.S. '319, hereinafter "Guzak") and further in view of Hanson et al (U.S. '736, hereinafter "Hanson"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. Applicant submits that the combination of Arora, Guzak and Hanson fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. For example, the combination fails to teach or suggest files which are converted into web-pages being stored in a hierarchical manner using a native file handling system of the operating system as required by independent claim 1 and its dependents. Independent claims 18, 19 and 22 require similar (but not necessarily identical) limitations.

Arora represents an example of the admitted prior art in which web-pages are created using a special purpose written application. If the teachings of Arora and Guzak were combined, a system would be obtained in which the data items, representing web-pages prior to their being "published" into HTML files, can be displayed using the tree viewer functions native to the operating system on which the specialist application of Arora is running. However, these data items would

still not be simply native files (e.g., word processor document files, image files, etc.) stored in the hierarchical directory structure of the operating system. Rather, they would still be data items stored in a fashion peculiar to the particular application used to create them and viewable only with the assistance of that application used to create them. That is, they would be stored in a single file, for example, a single file storing a serialized object containing all of the data for the various web-pages, understandable only by the application which created it.

Even if the teachings of Guzak were to enable an application to using native functions to generate a tree viewer to display hierarchically arranged data items with ease, the user would still be required to learn how to operate the interface associated with the other aspects of the web-page creation application according to Arora. In contrast, standard document processing applications (for example) may be used in the present invention to generate content for a website and then the web-pages are generated from the content files using standard document processing applications. This can be accomplished in a manner requiring no, or only a very simple, user interface which would not require any training on the part of the user.

Accordingly, the combination of the above-noted references would not have taught or suggested a native hierarchical structure, but only a flat hierarchical structure provided in an application specific manner by the application of Arora (by flat, it is meant that the hierarchical structure would be provided by including

a field in each web-page object/data item which indicated its position within the hierarchy, rather than by associating it with a particular folder native to the operating system).

Again, the combination fails to teach or suggest files which are converted into web-pages being stored in an arrangement in a hierarchical manner using the native file system of an operating system rather than arranging a flat hierarchical structure as done in Arora. This feature gives rise to advantages such as enabling the use applications with which a user is already familiar (e.g., word processing applications) in order to generate files which are later converted by the present invention into web-pages.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Arora, Guzak and Hanson be withdrawn.

New Claims:

New claims 29-47 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. Independent claim 29 relates to an operating system which includes a file management function with which each content file may be stored within a folder or a sub-folder to enable a hierarchical file structure to be formed, traversing the hierarchical file structure to identify relationship(s) between content files, and generating hyperlinks which correspond to the identified relationship(s). Independent claims 46 and 47 relate to similar (but necessarily identical) features. Applicant submits that claims 29-47 are allowable.

RUSS et al.
Application No. 09/889,350
August 23, 2005

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Raymond Y. Mah
Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:sl
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203
Telephone: (703) 816-4044
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

